United Nations E/AC.51/2016/L.4/Add.10

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
24 June 2016

Original: English

**Committee for Programme and Coordination**
**Fifty-sixth session**
31 May-24 June 2016
Agenda item 7
**Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-sixth session**

# Draft report

*Rapporteur*: Mr. Aleg **Yermalovich** (Belarus)

**Addendum**

## Proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019
(*Item 3 (b) (ii)*)

## Part one: plan outline

1. At its 5th meeting, on 1 June 2016, the Committee considered part one, plan outline, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6 (Part one)).

2. The Chef de Cabinet introduced the plan outline and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of it.

**Discussion**

3. Appreciation was expressed for the content, structure and strategic outlook of the report, which was said to provide a concise summary of: (a) the longer-term priorities of the Organization, which broadly reflected the priorities of Member States, for example, in terms of promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development (paras. 6-13), as well as human rights; and (b) the outcomes of internationally agreed development goals and of major United Nations conferences and international agreements, which were in accordance with resolutions of the General Assembly. In that regard, clarification was sought as to whether a specific entity within the Secretariat had been tasked with coordinating the preparation of the strategic framework to ensure that there was harmonization among the frameworks and that the legislative mandates were taken into account and not exceeded. It was noted that the frameworks in some biennial programme



Please recycle

plans did not reflect information on approved mandates, while others included information that had not been mandated.

4. Broad support for the eight priorities outlined in the report (para. 35) was expressed, with delegates noting that the priorities were similar to prior periods and therefore represented continuity. A delegation expressed the view that the eight priorities needed to be considered in context in that they presented a road map but were not, accordingly, a strategy. Delegations noted that the priorities would be inherited by the Administration to be led by a new Secretary-General beginning in 2017 and sought confirmation that they would be implemented by him or her. The focus on the development of Africa in partnership with the African Union and the effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts as priorities for the period 2018-2019 were underlined, and the need to involve the regional commissions in the implementation of those priorities was emphasized.

5. Some delegations expressed the view that the plan outline was an overarching document that could not cover all aspects of the Organization's work and commended the Secretary-General for preparing a balanced and succinct plan outline that covered the priorities of the Organization.

6. Delegations expressed the view that the plan outline did not adequately reflect a number of issues, including General Assembly resolution 69/313 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development; resolution 70/1 on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, relating specifically to poverty eradication in all its forms; other cross-cutting issues, such as gender equality, empowering women and children, support for marginalized and vulnerable populations, the responsibility to protect, and support democratic elections; the mandates underpinning the dimensions of food security and the right to development; resolution 70/34 on the follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament; resolutions 70/125 and 70/237 on, respectively, the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security; priorities relating to the effects of climate change and disaster reduction, namely, resolution 69/283, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

7. The view was also expressed that too much importance had been given to the Arms Trade Treaty, that it was premature to draw conclusions from the implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations and that the Secretariat should implement only those recommendations that had been the subject of intergovernmental consideration and approval.

8. A delegation stated that it had duly taken note of paragraph 16 of the report indicating that the United Nations would augment its capacities through continued efforts to strengthen peace operations and the implementation of guidance from Member States in response to the recommendation of the High-level Panel on Peace Operations and the agenda set forth in the related report of the Secretary-General. It also stated that the basic approach to United Nations support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should be the same and took note that the roles of the

Secretariat in the implementation of the development agendas were currently being considered by many relevant intergovernmental bodies.

9. The same delegation asked whether the Committee would authorize the proposed changes in the absence of a review by the sectoral, functional and regional bodies.

10. Delegations expressed support for the effective and efficient implementation of the 2030 Agenda (para. 6) and commended the Secretariat for reflecting the important role of Member States therein. Clarification was sought on how the Secretariat planned to reinvent itself in support of the transformative agenda, specifically in relation to the reprioritization of existing mandates and the reallocation of resources and restructuring of the Organization. Some delegations underlined that the overarching 2030 Agenda would outlive the duration of the strategic framework, which was limited to two years. Clarification was also sought on how the changes relating to the 2030 Agenda would be reflected in future proposals, including in the budget outline to be submitted to the General Assembly at the main part of its seventy-first session and the subsequent submission of the proposed programme budget for the period 2018-2019. In that regard, some delegations asked how the Secretariat would incorporate decisions yet to be taken in the framework of ongoing processes relating to the 2030 Agenda.

11. Concern was expressed regarding the emphasis placed on the economic vision of maintaining international peace and security at the expense of prioritizing the human cost of war (para. 15), on how the Organization would augment its capacities (para. 16) in relation to the conclusions of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations yet to be endorsed by intergovernmental bodies and on the lack of consensus regarding a common understanding of the political, security, development and human rights actors within and outside of the United Nations system (para. 17). The view was also expressed that investment in conflict-prevention initiatives would be critical to the maintenance of peace and security. Clarification was sought regarding how the review of subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3 of programme 2, Political affairs, would be undertaken by intergovernmental bodies or Member States, in particular how the activities would be monitored to ensure that they would be implemented as planned and approved by Member States.

12. Clarification was sought on the definition of political and social crises (para. 25), the decreasing respect for United Nations immunity in the field (para. 26) and how the effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts would be linked to the biennial programme plan for programme 23, Humanitarian assistance. The view was also expressed that it was unclear from which mandate the use of such terms as "humanitarian crisis" and "natural disasters" in relation to humanitarian assistance efforts was derived.

13. Support was expressed for the management initiatives reflected in paragraphs 33 and 34 of the report. In that regard, it was noted that the link between management initiatives and the results that the Organization was seeking to achieve could be improved in future reports. Some delegations were of the view that a ninth priority relating to management reform and overall performance Zat the strategic level could be added to the eight priorities for the plan period. Clarification was sought on how the implementation of the mobility framework, the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and Umoja would facilitate the programme planning process, including the impact on programme delivery and realizing

efficiencies, as well as on the expected implementation time frame. With regard to Umoja, clarification was sought on, among other things, the criteria to assess its effectiveness and the benefits derived from it, its impact on productivity, the delays encountered in its implementation and lessons learned.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

14. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the eight priorities for the period 2018-2019, as set out in paragraph 35 of the plan outline (A/71/6 (Part one)).**

15. **In view of the differences among Member States on some aspects of the plan outline, the Committee recommended that the General Assembly review the plan outline at its seventy-first session, under the agenda item entitled "Programme planning".**